



* KITCHEN DESIGN GUIDE

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INSPIRATION

There is little question that the kitchen is one of the most important rooms in the home. Whether it's the social hub where family and friends gather or a work center where homework and other projects are completed—the kitchen is the nucleus of the modern family's home. Because of this, the kitchen is often the driver and focus of home renovations or new home construction

Playing such a key role in everyday living, the kitchen should be designed with care and precision. Knowing where to start, however, can be a daunting task. But, where this whole kitchen design process should start is with you. The title of our eBook is perhaps a bit problematic. It begs the question: "Ideal for whom?" And that's where the whole kitchen design process should start—with you. The kitchen should reflect your family's personality, and your lifestyle. In order to help you achieve this reality, let's look in-depth at three important areas: style, functionality, and planning.



KITCHEN

CONSIDERATIONS



Leaf through any custom design magazine and you'll find a wide variety of styles: Art Deco, Classical, Contemporary, Country, French Colonial, Modern, Modern Contemporary, Rustic, Shaker, Transitional, Tudor, Victorian.. just to name a few. Some are classic, others are more traditional. Because there are so many different styles, it's important to narrow your choices so that you can choose a design that fits your preferences and lifestyle.

Having a kitchen that looks great is important. But your kitchen also needs to function well. To do that it will need to also be designed to fit your personality and lifestyle. After uncovering your style, our kitchen functionality questions on page 6 will help to narrow down what functionality you need out of your kitchen.

STYLE QUESTIONS

- What is my general sense of style? Do I gravitate toward things that are contemporary? Or do I prefer things that are traditional, country or rustic?
- What's the style in the rest of my home? If the rest of the house is traditional.. do I want to carry that style over to the kitchen?
- Are there things I hate about my current kitchen?
- Is there an overall theme in the house that I want to bring into the kitchen?
- Are there particular colors or color combinations I like?
- How much natural lighting would I want? Artificial lighting? What kind of fixtures do I like?



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FUNCTIONALITY

QUESTIONS

- What drives me crazy in my current kitchen? (Focus on organization, lighting, usability)
- How does my family use the kitchen? Is it a place for cooking? Is it a gathering place? Is it a homework haven?
Do we do laundry here? Do bills get paid here? Do we need to allow for a computer?
- How much storage will we need? What about an in-kitchen pantry?
- What appliances do we really want? Do we want/need any of the following: range, oven, cook-top, microwave, coffee/espresso machine, freezer, dishwasher, trash compactor? How do these appliances fit with the overall look of the kitchen?
- What kind of flooring do we want? What kind of traffic do we have in the kitchen? Are there pets or young children to consider?
- How do I want my workspace organized? Do I want an island? Do I need multiple sinks?
- What kind of cooking do we normally do? Do we need to accommodate “gourmet” style preparation?
- Do we entertain a lot? Will we need to make sure we allow room for “observers” in the kitchen?

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PLANNING & SCHEDULES

Believe it or not, the actual plan—creating the blueprint—is relatively easy once you know what you want. That's not to discount the importance of having a good blueprint. But figuring out the exact dimensions and how everything fits together really can't happen until you've defined the overall vision of what you want to see in your new kitchen.

Once you have the general concept in place, sit down with your design-build remodeler. Make sure they understand exactly what you want. They'll be able to advise you and steer you away from any structural or financial problem. You can sketch out on paper how you want things to look and their relative placement. Your designer will then take your ideas and turn them into accurate drawings while suggesting their own creative solutions.

Once you've seen your plans come to life, you'll likely ask what every homeowner wants to know: "How long will this take?" The answer? "It all depends." No two projects are exactly the same, and there can be a lot of different variables.

Creating the kitchen of your dreams can be daunting, but an exciting adventure! We hope this information helps as you start the process. We understand that information like this can actually raise as many questions as it answers! If you have additional questions about kitchen design, we're happy to address them.



ABOUT KEN SPEARS CONSTRUCTION

Ken Spears Construction, Inc., has been proud to serve the Northern Illinois area since 1975. We provide complete home renovation and solutions for residential upkeep and updating.

- Ken Spears Construction is fully insured, including workmen's compensation on all employees and liability insurance to provide you with peace of mind. This includes being a licensed roofing contractor as required by Illinois law.
- We provide qualified working teams to ensure your project moves as smoothly as possible
- We pride ourselves on keeping job sites clean during and after project completion
- We promise to use only high quality components
- And finally.. to communicate with you during the entire remodeling process

We provide complete start-to-finish service using tradespeople and suppliers with whom we have had a long-time working relationship. We handle the details, ensuring complete professionalism every step of the way.

